

S-E-C-R-E-T

CSS/MM-66  
12 November 1965

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD  
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Documentation

SUBJECT: Interim Report of Task Team VII - Analyst  
Communication

1. When USIB approved the CODIB recommendations on the SCIPS report, it directed CODIB to establish an ad hoc group to

"Develop proposals to improve analyst-to-analyst communication, including the feasibility of a centralized Intelligence Community Directory Service."

Thus, both CODIB and USIB recognized that improvements were necessary.

2. The decision by CODIB to request USIB approval to establish such an ad hoc group was an outgrowth essentially of three findings in the SCIPS report:

a. There is such a tremendous flood of paper in the Intelligence Community that no analyst can be assured of receiving all information pertinent to his area of responsibility.

b. There are so many files (at least 1000) and so many unit records in them (at least 220 million) that no analyst can be expected to research the available stores of information on any intelligence problem.

c. Because of the number, size and organization of existing files, it may be more expeditious to reacquire information from the field than to determine whether it is already available.

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Group 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification.

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3. CODIB, or at least some of the members, felt that one way to rectify the situation implied by these findings was to provide analysts at the working level (not middle managers) with a better mechanism for communicating with each other for the purposes of sharing intelligence that had been missed or overlooked in the paper flood and also for exchanging expertise and methodologies, not just in crisis situations but on a day-to-day basis.

4. One of the main points which the subject report attempts to make is that working-level analysts probably should not be provided the means for identifying their counterparts in other agencies because, among other things, command channels and security compartmentation must be maintained. In lieu of providing the means for analysts to identify and communicate directly with each other, the Task Team suggests improving existing liaison arrangements and establishing more points of "approved" contact.

5. This tentative conclusion may prevail in the long run. We believe, however, that the Task Team should, at the outset, give careful consideration to all methods of improving the existing situation, as surfaced only partially in the SCIPS report, with the aim in view of improving the intelligence product, rather than be concerned with whether command channels or security will be maintained if better facilities are provided for communication between analysts. Top-level managers can wrestle with these two problems when they consider whether to approve the proposals for improving the existing situation.

6. Further, we feel that if the Task Team does eventually conclude that a centralized Intelligence Directory Service should not be established, it should give detailed evidence supporting the reasons why it has so concluded in order to satisfy both CODIB and USIB that this is the best course to follow.

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Chief, CODIB Support Staff

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